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a casing having a fluid inlet and a single fluid outlet separated by a stripper, said casing having axially spaced, radially extending first and second side walls;

an impeller enclosed within said casing, and said impeller having an axis of rotation and axially spaced, radially extending first and second surfaces facing said first and second side walls of said casing, respectively; and

[means,] a chamber formed in at least one side wall of said casing, for defining a flow path between said fluid inlet and said single fluid outlet, said flow path defining [means] a chamber tapering along substantially all of its length between said fluid inlet and said single fluid outlet such that a first cross-sectional area at said fluid inlet is greater than a second cross-sectional area at said single fluid outlet.

sub c2
Claim 8. (Twice Amended) A regenerative pump for adding energy to a fluid comprising:

a casing having a fluid inlet and a single fluid outlet separated by a stripper, said casing having axially spaced, radially extending first and second side walls;

an impeller enclosed within said casing, and said impeller having an axis of rotation and axially spaced, radially extending first and second surfaces facing said first and second side walls of said casing, respectively; and

[means,] a chamber formed in at least one side wall of said casing, for defining a flow path between said fluid inlet and said single fluid outlet, said flow path defining means continuously tapering inward along substantially all of its length toward said impeller from said fluid inlet to said single fluid outlet as said fluid is directed back toward said impeller as said impeller rotates.

Sub C3

Claim 15. (Twice Amended) A regenerative pump for adding energy to a fluid comprising:

an impeller having an axis of rotation and axially spaced, radially extending first and second surfaces;

a casing enclosing the impeller and having a fluid inlet with a first cross-sectional area and a single fluid outlet with a second cross-sectional area separated by a stripper, the casing having axially spaced, radially extending first and second side walls, said first and second side walls facing said first and second surfaces of said impeller, respectively;

axially and radially extending blade means formed on an outer radial periphery of said impeller for driving fluid from said inlet toward said outlet as said impeller rotates about said axis of rotation; and

a generally ring shaped side channel portion formed in at least one of said first and second side walls of said casing for defining a flow path between said fluid inlet and said single fluid outlet, and said side channel portion tapering on a constant slope axially inward along substantially all of its length toward said impeller from said fluid inlet to said single fluid outlet for reducing the cross-sectional area from said first cross-sectional area to said second cross-sectional area by from about 10% to about 50% and directing fluid back into contact with said blade means as said impeller rotates.

REMARKS

Housekeeping

By this amendment, applicant has cancelled claim 2. Additionally, while the Examiner has stated that the November 12, 1999 Information Disclosure Statement has been considered. Applicant wishes to note that this application is a Continued